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NOTES ON INSPECTION

OF

MUSEUM INSTITUTIONS

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

IN THE MONTH OF APRIL 1903.

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Notes of Inspection of Muzrai Institutions by the Deputy Secretary to Govt. in the month of April1903

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Having had to proceed to Melkote on account of the Vyramudi festival at the commencement of last month I took the permission of the Dewan to make a short tour in the Southern part of the Mysore District with the view of personally acquainting myself with the various Muzrai Institutions there. Leaving Head Quarters on the 4th April 1903, I visited Melkote, Seringapatam, T.Narasipur, Nanjangud, Mysore, Channapatna and Malur and returned to Bangalore on the 27th idem. I was able to acquire much useful knowledge regarding the many important Muzrai Institutions in those places and to obtain local information regarding many questions now pending before Government. Brief notes on the places visited and the subjects inquired into are given below:-

4th April 1903.

While enroute from Bangalore to Melkote I halted for a few hours at the late Mr. P. Krishna Rao's Chattram near the French Rocks Railway Station. A portion of the Chattram establishment at Seringapatam had been as usual deputed to conduct Santarpane in the Chattram

at the French Rocks Railway Station, for a-
bout a fortnight on account of the large num-
ber of travellers proceeding to Melkote for
the Vyramudi Jatra and it was found that the
average number of persons fed in the Chat-
tram was about 15 a day. During ordinary
seasons, however, very few travellers alight
at this Chattram owing to its proximity to
Seringapatam. This Chattram is in needof
some slight repairs which will be
intimated to Mr.P. Raghavendra Rao,
Assistant Secretary to H.H. the
Maharaja, to whom it belongs.

(1) ✓ D.O written.

5th 6th & 7th April.

Halt Melkote.

The Vyramudi Utsavam
on the 6th April went off success-
fully in the usual manner. A fair-
ly large crowd had assembled to
witness the festival, although
for fear of plague people did not
come in from distant places as usual.
The Sub-division Officer Mr. T. Ven-
kata Rao, the Police Supdt. Mr. G.
Krishna Rao and the Deputy

Amildar Mr. Sheik Abdulla were present along with myself on the occasion.

I found that the management of the affairs of the Melkote temple has not of late been satisfactory as could be wished. The Peshkar (Shamanna) and the Deputy Amildar(Shek Abdulla)are not on good terms with each other. The temple servants with whom the Peshkar has been very strict do not inmany instances obey his orders and have carried to the Dy. Amildar complaints of the irregularities perpetrated by the Peshkar,and as the Dy. Amildar shows some animus in enquiring into such complaints,the authority of the Peshkar has become greatly weakened. No moneys are given into the Peshkars hands even for the minutest items of daily expenditure all disbursements being kept under the direct orders of the Dy.Amildar.On the whole the state of things is unsatisfactory. I have spoken to Mr. N. Venkat Rao,Sub-Division Officer,about

remedying the state of affairs and have also advised the Dy. Amildar and the Peshkar It seems however necessary to clearly define the respective powers of the Deputy Amildar and the Peshkar.

Examined the temple Accounts.It was brought to notice that the distribution of pay to the temple servants generally took place during the latter part of he month,as the Dy. Amildar,who disbursed he pay used to go to Melkote after the 5thof each month. He was asked to try and isburse the pay before the 10th of every month.

2) ✓ W 2341 dt 25-5-03

The Accounts showed that a sum of Rs1420 odd was kept in deposit in the temple Treasury,the items consisting of the savings effected from time to time , the undisbursed amounts &c. This being objectionable under the Rules,the Peshkar was directed to remit the amounts to th e Taluk Treasury immediately,after making payments if any ,due to the servants and others.

(3) ✓ W 2313 dt 25-5-03

There is a system prevailing

in the temple called" ಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮನೆ" that is renting out a room in the temple premises for preparing ನೈವೇದ್ಯ on the requisition of ಶ್ರೀ ಮಠದ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಗಳು — This ಮನೆ is generally leased out to the same temple servant who prepares ನೈವೇದ್ಯ for daily Nivedya in the temple. Complaints were made by the Peshkar that this ಮನೆ business has given room to several kinds of irregularities, such as the preparation of ನೈವೇದ್ಯ intended for ಒಂದು ಸಲ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ once in 4 or 5 days instead of every day, the stealing of temple provisions &c. He therefore suggested that though at small loss to the temple, the ಮನೆ should be put a stop to. It appears that the present ಮನೆ will expire on the 30th June 1906. The Dy. Commr. will be addressed on the point.

It was brought to notice that the Tasdik amounts of ಒಂದು ಸಲ and ಹಬ್ಬದ ಸಲ were not being sent to the Peshkar but disbursed to the contractor in the Sub

Taluk without the knowledge of the Peshkar. The result is that the temple authorities and Dharmadarsis are kept quite ignorant of what takes place, and the temple Peshkar has no hold or authority over the contractor, who looks to the Dy. Amildar for payment. Although it is certainly desirable that the monthly contracts should be given out under the personal orders of the Dy. Amildar, there is no reason why amounts for the payment of ೧೪ ; ೮ and ೭೫ ; ೨ should not as usual be sent to the Peshkar, who should be required to pay the amounts due to the parties concerned and remit the savings, if any, to the Taluk Treasury at the end of the month A Memorandum for regulating all these matters and for defining the powers of the Dy. Amildar and the Peshkar regarding the temple matters will be shortly submitted. Considering that the Melkote temple is one of the most important Institutions in the State, and the fact that the Dy. Amildar's Office and the Govt. Treasury are not located at Melkote, I think it is necessary that certain powers should

(5)

be vested in the Peshkar and allowed to be exercised by him. If any individual Peshkar is found unfit for the place, he ought to be removed, but the powers of the office should not, in my humble opinion, be curtailed.

There is a Bhyragi Matt at Melkote at the foot of the hill leading to the Narasimhaswami temple. The institution enjoys a cash grant of Rs.14-1-0 per mensem from Government and service is daily rendered therein, and Sadawarth given to Bhyragis by the exertions of the managers of the Matt. The Mahant of the Matt having died some months ago, a successor was appointed by the local authorities without obtaining the sanction of Government as required by the rules relating to succession to Matts. A petition received on the subject was sent to the Deputy Commissioner for report, and it was also directed that the appointment made by the local authorities should be held in abeyance, and the payment of the stipend stopped pending the final orders of Government. A petition from another individual claiming the Mahantship has also been since sent to the Deputy Commissioner for report. Meanwhile,

I have found on personal enquiry that much inconvenience has been caused to travelling Bhyragis by the stoppage of the stipend. I therefore propose, with permission, to allow the stipend to the MAHANT recommended by the local authorities, strictly as a temporary measure, pending the final orders of Government on the claims put forward for the Mahantship.

8thApril. Melkote to French Rocks.

The Tirumalasagara Srinivasadevaru temple at the road-side is in a very dilapidated condition. The enquiries made in November 1901 have not yet been answered by the Deputy Commissioner. A reminder has now been sent

9th and 10th Seringapatam.

I stopped at the new Chatiram constructed in memory of H.H. the late Maharajah. The building is very commodious and comfortable. The new bathing Ghat is nearing completion, and already large numbers of townspeople (chiefly women) go to the Ghat for water for household purposes.

The Srirangam-thaswami temple is kept in good order and the services are duly conducted. The Amildar (Mr Srikantiah) has given a bright uniformm to the bandsmen of

the temple and has also got prepared through a devotee two Swota Chatries (white silk umbrellas) for the use of the temple. These add to the attractive-ness of the temple processions.

The large Anna Chattram here is in good working,and daily feeding is properly conducted. The accounts are well kept.

Inspected the Sri Vyasaroya-swami Matt building at Srirangapatam & retired Assistant Commissioner Mr. Raghavendra Rao's house,proposed to be taken up for removing the Matt thereto. Kunigal Krishnachar who is the local Agent of the Matt represented that he protested against the removal of the Matt, when Mr. C.B.Seshagiri Rao,Huzra' Assistant Commissioner inspected the Matt building as well as the house in question, but that,that Officer paid no heed to his objections. The chief objections were that the removal of the

idol of Gopalkrishnaswami which had been consecreated by one of the former Swamies of the Matt many years ago,was opposed to public sentiments,and that certain privileges enjoyed by the Matt at the present building,such as the prohibition of other Matt Swamies passing in front of the Matt with music &c,might not probably be continued,if the Matt were shifted to another house. Other disciples of the Matt that were present at the time of my inspection expressed the same opinion. Mr. Subba Rao, (Pleader)and Mr. Srikantaiyya (Amildar) were however in favor of the removal, chiefly in consideration of the heavy cost of rebuilding the present Matt. The Vyasarayaswamigalu, whom I subsequently consulted, told me that he was against the proposed removal. My own humble opinion is that it is undesirable to proceed against public sentiment in the matter. An Office Note in greater detail will be submitted for orders together with the file on the subject.

The Hussen Masjid, which was one of

the Institutions transferred to the Durbar by the British Govt. at the time of the Rendition, having entirely collapsed, so, a new building was about a year ago ordered to be constructed. The new building has now been satisfactorily completed by the Amildar. I have requested the Amildar to clear the grounds of debris and to put the Institution into working order at once.

(8)

The Gumbuz containing the the tombs of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan was next inspected and found to be in good order. The new carpets and rich covers for the tombs recently supplied at a cost of about Rs 2000/ have added to the attractiveness of the Institution.

The Nazir of the Gumbuz told me that a few good chairs and a big table were necessary for use when high European Officers visited the Gumbuz and took refreshments there and that

the want of such furniture was felt when H.E. the Governor of Madras and the Hon'ble the British Resident and others visited the Gumbuz recently. Arrangements will be made to supply them at once from Bangalore. (9)

It was noticed that an old and huge tree behind the Masjid attached to the Gumbuz has sent its roots underneath the building, and that the walls have cracked in some places. The immediate removal of this tree and of its roots ~~seeing~~ seems therefore desirable, and the Deputy Commissioner will be asked to report on the point. (10)

One Doddayya was, it seems, feeding a large number of poor people near the Gumbuz on the day of Tippu Sultan's Urus every year, and was getting a sum of Rs.5/- per annum as a sort of honor from the Gumbuz. Doddaya having died, his son it is stated, continues the charity, but the honrarium has been stopped as it is not provided for in the Tasdik Patti. The son having petitioned on the subject, I think that the matter deserves favourable consideration. A

of the grant, the Govt. resumed the villages and have been separately crediting the revenues in the Treasury pending final settlement of the claims of the vrittiedars. The object of the grant being that the Brahmin donees should reside in the houses given to them and in the performance of their daily Brahmanical rites, pray for the longevity and prosperity of the Royal House of Mysore, Govt. have allotted sites for building new houses in a healthy locality near the temple at Seringapatam and have ruled that the balance of the vritti amounts will be paid only on houses being built by the Brahmin donees. The latter complain that the amounts due to them have not been paid, while the local Govt. Officers explain that the vrittiedars do not come forward to take charge of the house sites intended for them and do not show any inclination actually to build

for the support of which two villages named Turuganur and Basavamhalli in the T. Narasipur Taluk were granted as inam by H.H.the late Maharajah Krishna Raj Wodier III. The villages were divided into 18 vritties of which one was given to each of the Brahmins and 2 set apart for feeding in the Chattram, and the rest given to certain small temples at the place. The Agraharam became abandoned in course of years and is now a mass of ruins. The roof of the Chattram has fallen and is in a state of utter neglect and the timber is all being carried away. There was litigation in the Courts on account of the income from the vritties between some of ~~of~~ the vrittiedars and the Sowcar's descendants who also have latterly become extinct. Seeing this neglected state of affairs and the nonfulfilment of the objects

of the grant, the Govt. resumed the villages and have been separately crediting the revenues in the Treasury pending final settlement of the claims of the vrittiedars. The object of the grant being that the Brahmin donees should reside in the houses given to them and, in the performance of their daily Brahmanical rites, pray for the longevity and prosperity of the Royal House of Mysore, Govt. have allotted sites for building new houses in a healthy locality near the temple at Seringapatam and have ruled that the balance of the vritti amounts will be paid only on houses being built by the Brahmin donees. The latter complain that the amounts due to them have not been paid, while the local Govt. Officers explain that the vrittiedars do not come forward to take charge of the house sites intended for them and do not show any inclination actually to build

houses thereon. Further the present claimants have not as yet produced the documents to prove their claims though repeatedly called upon by the Deputy Commissioner to do so. The matter therefore forms one of the most complicated questions pending disposal in the Muzrai Department for many years past, and although much official correspondence has taken place between this office and the Deputy Commissioner no tangible result has yet been achieved. Now that I have obtained an insight into the case, the matter will be gone into without further loss of time and a clear note submitted for orders at an early date.

Meanwhile, I beg strongly to recommend that the Kowl Kishen Dass Chattram at Paschimavahini may be repaired and put into order at

once./ It is a large and commodious building of two stories with an open court yard in the centre and a hall and two rooms on the upper floor besides the usual rooms for cooking, dining &ca. Notwithstanding the old age of the building, the walls and the terraced portion of the roof are perfectly sound, and it is only the tiled portions that have come down and the timber relating to these portions has disappeared. For the thorough renovation of this building, an estimate for Rs. 2500 has been prepared by a P. W. Supervisor (Mr Nallanayakam Moodalier.), and so much will no doubt be required if expended economically and carefully. The large compound attached to the Chattram has to be levelled and cleared of weeds, and towards this end the useless trees may be cut and disposed of. All this work can be most efficiently done by the Amildar of Seringapatam who has

promised to take a personal interest in the matter and get the work done under his direct supervision. The Chattram enjoys two vritties of Rs. 60 each per annum and the proceeds of another called YajamanVritti may also be placed at the disposal of the Chattram. The accumulated savings of these three vritties in the hands of the Government comes to about Rs. 2000. This may be supplemented from the State Grant to any small extent that may be necessary, and this important institution restored to a condition of great usefulness. As soon as the building is completed, a caretaker may be appointed and some cooking utensils provided for the use of travellers, the question of gratuitous feeding being put off to a future time. The institution will supply a real want, besides restoring a great work of charity.

~~10.~~

The flight of steps to the river attached to this Chattram ~~are~~ is being repaired by a charitably disposed gentleman with the permission of the Amildar. The work may be thankfully accepted, but the gentleman in question should be informed that he or his descendants will not have any claim on the Chat in future.

D. 2470
D. 8-6-03 (13)

Two other Chattrams at Paschimavahini, known as Bungalow Chowdiah's Chattram and Veene Venkatasubbaiya's Chattram, have been endowed by private parties with lands for the accomodation and gratuitous feeding of travellers. The charitable objects of these grants are not now fulfilled, and the lands have been alienated to third parties by the descendants of the donors, who evidently have had no inclination to continue the charities. The local authorities have been under the impression that these being private charities

they cannot be interfered with by Government. It has however been pointed out recently in Government proceedings that even though charities are instituted by private parties, Government have a right to interfere when it is brought to notice that such charities are mismanaged. The Deputy Commissioner of My: has, in accordance with this been asked to report in detai: regard to these Chattrams.

(14)
No. 2306
Dy 22.5.03.

Another Chattram k: as Chengiah Chetty's Chattram is being rebuilt under the orders of the District Court which is managing the estate of the deceased proprietor.

The resuscitation of these Chattrams will give new life to the village of Paschimavahini which is and always will be an important place of pilgrimage and which now presents a neglected and forlorn appearance.

11th April Bannur.

I stopped at Bannur for a few hours while en route to T. Narasi pur. The inhabitants were then gradually returning to the village which had been evacuated on account of the plague The important temple of Sri Ramadevaru in the place was endowed with certain lands by His Highness The late Maharajah Sri Chamarajendra Wodier G.C.S.I. Proposals for the revision of the establishment of this temple are now before the Government.

The temple of Somanathpur well known for its architectural importance was next visited. It was put into order in recent years and a caretaker has been appointed therefor by the P. W. Deparment. I however noticed signs of some of the images having been broken and removed recently. The Amildar was requested to take the needful action to prevent such acts of mischief.

No. 2467
D 8.6.03

Worship is not carried on in this institution but I was informed that the people intended applying for the revival of worship, the cost being met from the grant of certain lands made to this temple by H.H. the late Maharajah.

11th and 12th April T. Narasipur.

The chief matter regarding wh I proceeded to T. Narasipur was the settlement of the long standing dispute between the Vadagalai and the Thengalai sections of the Iyengar Brahmins, relative to a temple recently built by the Tengalais in honor of their patron saint known as the Jeer. The Vadagalais say that the new temple which has been so built as to be attached to a small temple of Janardana Swami, should be removed or a passage made between the two temples, and that the Jeer Idol should not be

taken in procession. ———

———— ——The Tengalais on the other hand say that the idol of Desikar used by the Vadagalais is a spurious one and should not be paraded. Both parties have brought forward arguments in support of their respective contentions and they keep sending sensational petitions to Government. The state of feeling is very bitter and the parties do not hesitate from resorting to arrant falsehood. I heard both parties at great length, each in presence of the other, examined the idols concerned and inspected the new temple in question. An Office Note fully dealing with the subject will shortly be submitted.

(16)

But for this vexatious dispute the affairs of the Ganga Narasimha swami temple at T. Narasipur are in good order. The temple was repaired in recent years and is in good condition and the temple sevices are duly performe

The " astabandhana " of the Anda-
lammanavaru in this temple having
got loose, the Amildar was asked
to take steps to set it right at
once.

No 2469
dt 8.6.03

By the side of the Gun-
ja Narasimha swami Temple is a ter-
raced building which was originall-
ly constructed as a Musafir Khana
but subsequently passed into the
hands of the Ahobala Matt. As the
building was in disrepair, the Dy.
Commissioner has taken possessinn
of it on behalf of Government and
the local authorities are of opinion
that the Matt has no right to the
building. The Agent of the Matt
having appealed to Government the
matter will be gone into and sub-
mitted for orders.

The temple of Agasthe-
swara situated at the confluence
of the rivers Kaveri and Kapila is

a very ancient institution held in great veneration by the Hindus and large numbers of people visit it not only on its own account but also on account of the old tree known as"Brahmaaswatha". The temple was greatly in need of repair in many parts and an estimate for Rs. 780 was pending in the office. Considering the emergent nature of the work I sanctioned the work then and there providing for more light and ventilation in the building and requested the Amildar to complete the work before the end of June so that the amount might not lapse.

This temple is greatly in need of Government help for its expenditure as the servants are very ill paid and are gradually leaving. The matter requires consideration.

Another estimate for over Rs 800 for repairing a stone Mantapam outside this temple has been pending

in the office. On inspection I found that its repair was not a matter of urgent necessity and in the absence of funds need not be undertaken at present. The Deputy Commissioner will be informed accordingly.

On the bank of the river, near the Travellers' Bungalow, there is the temple of Moolastha-neswara which is kept in good order but the Tasdik of which (viz, 1 Rupee odd) is quite insufficient for its maintenance. Some way has to be found for helping the Insti tution.

The Chattram at Tiruma-kudlu is in good working order, but it has too many Nehmi allow-ances attached to it. Being a place of pilgrimage the Chattram is much resorted to and it is necessary to keep up feeding without inter-ruption. With this object the neces sary

RE 2466
28.6.03.

information will be called for for revising the establishment of the Chattram.

14th April. Sosile.

The temples of Honna Devi and Veerabhadraswami which were established by H.H. the late Maharajah Krishna Raj Wodier III were inspected. They are kept in good condition by the the Lingayet inhabitants of the village and worship conducted by persons of that class. A large number of jewels belonging to these temples were sold some years ago and the proceeds (Rs. 50,000 placed at the credit of these institutions. The inhabitants pray for the improvement of the pay of the temple establishments. Proposals in this behalf will be shortly submitted.

I next visited the Sri Vyasaraya Swami Matt at Sosile and had a long conference with the Swamigalavaru or High Priest. The affairs of this

Matt have of late years fallen into great disorder, the large land endowments having passed into the hands of strangers as security for debts contracted by the Swami and his predecessors. The Swami having refused to furnish accounts of his management of the Estates when called upon by the Government to do so, the monthly cash allowance of Rs. 350 payable to the Matt was stopped. The Swami then left Mysore territory and after an absence of several years has come back to his head quarters (Sosile) and has been paying Government to restore the cash allowance, expressing regret for his past attitude and promising to follow the advice Government in all matters. Under these circumstances and upon information that the Swami was in really difficult straits for current expenditure, Government were

pleased recently to sanction a monthly allowance of Rs. 200 out of the amount withheld, with effect from 1st March last. During the interview I had with him the Swami again expressed regret for the past, and gave a petition to Government requesting them to take possession of all the estates of the Matt situated in Mysore Trritory, to clear the Matt of all its debts and put things in order. The debts in Mysore territory amount to about ½ a lakh. Proposals in connection with the assumption by Govt of the land Endowments of the Matt were submitted to the Dewan for consideration and orders about a week ago. This Matt has also extensive lands in British Territory and has also incurred heavy debts there amounting to ½a lakh. The Durbar need not, I think, concern itself with these just now, but after the Matt affairs in Mysore territory are brought into order, the British Government may

perhaps be moved to take steps in a similar direction.

The inner portion of the Matt building where the daily Puja is performed is in good condition, but the outer Thotti used for dining purposes is in a bad state, and the tiled roof is about to come down. I have asked the Amildar to submit at once through the proper channel an estimate for repairing it. The cost which will probably be about Rs. 1500 may be met from the savings of about Rs. 35000 which have accumulated in the hands of Government owing to the stoppage of the cash grant for some years past.

Another important matter which I enquired into in the Narasipur Taluk was in connection with the Ahobala Matt, an important institution of the Srivaishnava sect of Brahmins. The Head Quarters of this Matt is Tiruvellore near Madras, but has been endowed with two valuable

villages in Mysore Territory. The Swami of the Matt died about three years ago and no successor has yet been appointed. Meanwhile the lands seem to have been administered by an Agent of the Matt. We have been corresponding with the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore as regards the real state of affairs, but what I have ascertained from local enquiryis that a gentleman named Mr. Narasimha char has been appointed Receiver of the Matt affairs by the District Court of Chinglepet in the Madras Presidency, that the estates situated in the Mysore and Hyderabad Territories are also included in the authority given to him by that Court, and that he accordingly claims the management of our lands also. An account given by the Receiver to the Amildar of T Narasipur shows that the Agent collected during the last 3 years the large sum of ₹8425-5-0 (leaving a considerable balance unrecovered) and spent on behalf of the Matt ₹1426-1-0. What legitimate expenses there could be in connection with

with the Matt when there is no presiding Guru is not known here. Meanwhile, it seems desirable that until the Matt's affairs are settled and a High Priest is duly appointed the management of the Mysore villages may be assumed by the Mysore Government, so that there may be no chance of their income being misapplied. The file of papers on the subject will be submitted for orders.

15th April- Talkad:-

This place is interesting owing to the extensive sand dunes which by their rapid advance once threatened to swallow up the town. By the action of Govt. taken some years ago in planting them up with ~~with~~ shrubs and trees, the further progress of the sand hills has been sucessfully arrested. The visit of the Vaidyeswara temple in the town, an old temple held in great veneration but the income of which was represented as being altogether insufficient. The temples of Pathaleswara and Keerti Narayanaswami situated in the midst of

the

the sand hills were next visited and found in good order.

I next visited Muduku:norai, about 3 miles away from Talkad, where the river flows in a curve, and near which is the temple of Mallicarjunaswami placed on the top of a high hill. Worship in this temple is conducted by Lingayet Pujaries but on one particular festive occasion in the year it is conducted by Brahmins. A large Jatra is held here and feeding carried out by the devotees, chiefly Lingayets. I found a veranda in the inner compound of this temple in a dangerous condition and requested the Amildar to send up an estimate for its repair at once. The bad practice of breaking cocoanuts within the inner shrines of temples, causing water to stagnate and giving room to insects to collect, is followed in this temple. I pointed out to the Amildar and the Pujaries and asked them to make better arrangements at once.

(23)

I was informed by the Amildar that

the land endowments of a certain Matt called the Thopina Matt have recently been taken up under the direct management of Govt. in the Muzrai Department. The matter not having been reported to this Office, the Deputy Commissioner will now be asked under what circumstances this came about. (24)

16th April. On the way from T. Narasipur to Chamarajanagar, I passed through Morgoor, a flourishing village, where there are the two temples of Daseswara and Tirupura Sundari. Both the temples are in excellent condition, particularly the latter. Some important repairs were recently very well carried out in the Daseswara temple by the builder Mr. T.G. Krishnaswami Rao for the small sum of Rs. 500, one half of which was sanctioned by Government and, the other half contributed by Rao Bd. J. Desaraj Urs.

17th April. Chamarajnagar.

The Chamarajeswara temple

was built and concecrated by H.H. Maha-Raj Krishna Raj Wodier III and named after his father. It was endowed with the lands of two entire hoblies, the revenue demand of which at the present time is Rs. 19000 per annum. A very large establishment is also attached to the temple for daily services. The jewellery in the temple is of immense value and a small detatchment from the Mysore Infentry guards the temple. This is one of the very few temples in the state which show an annual saving. the accumulated savings up to date amount to about Rs.35000.

The Tastik of this temple was carefully revised and the scale of establishment and the expenditure to be incurred on ordinary occassions and on special festive occassions were fixed in 1892 by Rai Bahadur Mr. A Srinivasa Charlu under the orders of Govt. But complaints are now made that the

that revision did not provide for certain very important matters and was illiberal in other respects. One of the Dharmadarsis gave me a long memorandum touching these points. I gave it to the Amildar with an endorsement thereon that it may be submitted to Government through the Deputy Commissioner with the careful opinions of the local authorities.

It has been the policy of the Mysore Government, while revising the establishments of temples to do away with the sevices of the dancing girls attached to them and to prohibit their personal attendance in the temples, on account of the immoral influence brought to bear upon the temple servants and the general public by their presence. The emoluments actually drawn by the existing incumbents however are always continued

to them during their life-time, without obtaining any services from them. In the case of the Chamarajnagar temple the names of the dancing girls who had previously been attached to the institution appear to have been omitted in the revised Tasdik Patti by oversight. Some of these women complained to me on the point and I told them that the matter would be enquired into. (25)

Inconvenience is felt for want of dwelling accommodation for the members of the Sepoy Guard who are sent from time to time to guard the temple. A few tiled houses have to be built, and the Amildar showed me a site for the purpose I told him that if the site was approved by the Deputy Commissioner and the other authorities concerned and the matter came up with full details, the subject would be dealt with by the Musrai Department.

There are two large plots

of ground belonging to the Chama-
Rajeswara temple on either side
of the road leading into the town
from the Mysore side. They are quite
fit for cultivation either with
dry crops or garden produce, but
they are lying waste in consequence
~~to~~ of the extensive growth of prick-
ly pear on them besides being un-
sightly at the entrance into the
town. The Amildar proposes to clea
the lands of weeds and prickly
pear at an initial cost of about
Rs.200 and to give them out for
cultivation to the highest bidder
for the benifit of the temple.
The proposal seems a good one and
may be approved.

Some repairs are reqired
to the minor temples in the Praka-
ram of the Chamarajeswara temple
as also to Puttammanni's temple
outside the town where Lingayet

travellers alight. These will be dealt with as soon as estimates therefor are received.

Outside the temple of Narayanaswami at the other end of the town a well is under construction from Mizrai funds. Already about Rs. 200 have been spent on this work and a still larger estimate for about 800Rs. has been received in consequence of rock being found as the work proceeded. The well if completed, would not only supply the needs of the temple which are no much, but would be of real use to the inhabitants of that part of the town. I am therefore of opinion that the Local Fund Board and the Municipality should share in the cost of constructio of this well. The matter will be submitted for orders in great detail.

The Chatram at Chamraj-nagar is in good working order but it has a good many Nehmi allowances attache

to it. Travellers from the Coimbatore District proceeding to Nanjangud and Mysore and T. Narasipur stop at this Chattram and the monthly grant (deducting Nehmi allowances being found insufficient is supplimented by the allowance made for feeding in the Sivakuta in the temple, which is not as much resorted to as in the case of the Nanjangud temple. There is a proposal in the Dasara Representative Assembly for the abolition of this Chattram but considering the numbers resorting to it , I am not in favour of the proposal.

18th April.

I next visited Harankalli four miles away from Chamarajnagar and Venkataiyana Agrahara two miles beyond. Harankalli is the birthplace of the old Maharajas of Mysore and is now almost in ruins. The two temples of Divya-

Mr.

Lingeswara and Gopalakrishnaswami are kept in good order, having gone through extensive repairs effected from Government funds and from contributions by the villagers who have taken much interest in the matter, Kandachar SubbaRao's Chattiram, which was taken over under Mazrai Management is located in a portion of the Gopalakrishnaswami temple.

It would appear that there is a proposal by the Education Department to convert one side of the temple building in the front into a School house, It is certainly a good idea to put unused portions of the temple premises to a useful purpose, but it is my humble opinion that the better plan would be to get the requisite alterations effected from Mazrai funds and recover rent from the Educational Department which will be a source of permanent income to the temple. With this object I shall place myself in communi

with the Inspector General of Education.

There is a huge stone pillar (about 50 feet high) in front of this temple which has commenced to lean on one side. There seems to be no immediate danger however of its coming down.

I was informed that a certain Shambhog had recently given some of his landed property to this temple. Enquiries will be made on the point.

The place known as Venkatiayana Chattram is a small village consisting of an agrahar of Brahmins and a temple of Srinivasa Devaru. It would appear that extensive inam lands were endowed to the by the old Rajahs, of which some of the vrittics were assigned for the benifit of the temple. The Agrahardars mismanaged the properties and became reduced

~~the~~

in circumstances and all the lands, including those assigned to the temple, were resumed to Government for nonpayment of Government dues. The village is now in a desolate condition and the temple very dilapidated. Immediate repairs to the main temple are urgently necessary and I have asked the Amildar to submit an estimate therefor, making provision for light and air. The Mantapams in the Prakaram cannot now be attended to but the stone idol of the Goddess, which is now in a dangerous situation may be removed into the inner shrine and consecrated there. ~~I have~~

(32)

It seems rather hard that the templelands should have been resumed owing to the mismanagement of individuals in whose charge they were placed. With permission, I shall call for the papers relating to this subject and see if it is not possible to move Government to restore the lands to the

(33)

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(33)

44

temple.

19th April:-

On the way from Chamarajnagar to Nanjangud is Bendervadi where there is a Government Anna Chattram. The institution is well conducted under its present Parpattegar, a retired Police Daffedar. There were complaints against the Paricharak(one Ambaiya) as being impertinent and disobedient. I told the Amildar that it lay within the power of the local authorities to dismiss the man if he proved obstructive to work. The requisite information will be obtained and the Chattram Establisment revised.

I next proceeded to Konanur which is a mile away from the road side. The repairs sanctioned to this temple some time back have been well executed. Further additions to this temple are asked for, which will be considered when an Estimate therefor is received.

19th & 20th April- Nanjangud:-

It is well known that the Sri

Sricanteswaraswami

Sreecanteswaraswami temple at Nanjangud is one of the most sacred institutions in Southern India. Even the Mahomedan Rulers of Mysore held this temple in vene two Lingams are shown as having been consecrated in the names of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. The temple is endowed with a cash Tasdik of Rs. 20,000 per annum, and althogh the scale of expenditure was carefully revised and fixed by Mr. Sreenivascharlu it was not found possible to effect much saving, owing to the large establishment which had to be maintained. The services in this temple are many and frequent, Puja being performed six times a day. Ootsavams and the parading of the idol in the streets are of frequent occurrence, and owing to the large numbers of people who flock to this important place of pilgrimage, much cost is incurred for feeding such as are in need of it. This place is also sometimes

visited by Members of the Mysore Royal Family. The Sivakuta, a sacred feeding institution attached to this temple, is largely resorted to by devotees and the cash grant of about Rs.5 a day is often found insufficient. It is owing to the want of funds on such occasions that successive Amildars have been in the habit of utilizing irregularly at their own discretion the sums alloted for the different services without strictly following the Tasdik Patti.

With the view of improving the income and resources of the temple, Government some years back granted 80 acres of land to the temple at the reduced cost of Rs.30 an acre. The lands have been for several years under the management of the Amildar but they have not yeilded even enough for payment of Sirkar Kandayam, while about

Rs. 2500 out of the price payable for the lands have been paid to the Government out of the current revenues of the temple. This unsatisfactory state of things is said to be due to the selection of unsuitable high lying lands which are beyond reach of water. The bad selection is said to have been made by the late Amildar Mr. ~~Narasamiah~~ Narasamiah who is now dead. It would appear that the local authorities propose to apply to Government for better lands in substitution of those now assigned to the temple. Certain devotees of this temple who have given moneys for the purchase of lands for the benefit of the temple have been making enquires about how the contributions have been utilized. On personal enquiry I found that some of the moneys have been used for the purchase of lands, some for preparing them for cultivation and so on. An exhaustive report has to be called for and the

whole matter definitely settled.

Inthe temple I found the floor of the ~~Swakuta~~ Sivakuta dining hall broken up in several places and the same was the case with the verandah where the Bhyragis alight. I ordered these to be attended to at once, sanctioning therefor small sums of Rs. 29 and 70 respectively. Many of the windows of the Sivakuta have got rotten and seem to require immediate renovation. The stone flagging of the Prakaram of the temple has become very uneven in many parts owing to long and constant use, and it seems desirable to put the whole in order, as also to open some more skylights in the Prakaram. One of the stone beams on the roof near the Chandé-kesvara temple has cracked and requires to be attended to. These repairs though somewhat costly, are necessary as they have been

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Rs 23 4-03.

neglected for a long time past, and if carriedout, will give a bright appearance to this temple as is the case in Melkote.

The building in which the Vahanams are kept requires urgent repairs. Two of the Vahanams, the "Kailasa" and the "Horse" if slightly repaired, can be brought into use. The elephant attached to the temple drags these Vahanams with ease.

There are 5 cars attached to this temple, 2 large and 3 small, all of which have to be used in accordance with custom. They are built on the old native plan and are very old and rickety. One of these cars broke down during the Rathotsavam festival held last month. The Amildar had, a short time previously, sent through the Deputy Commissioner estimates amounting to Rs.4000 odd for repairing these cars and for providing cloth decorations for them. Re-

Enquiries were made as to the details of this large estimate and what was the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner on the subject and a small sum of Rs. 100 was sanctioned for immediate repairs. Upon personal inspection I found that all the cars are in a very dilapidated condition and require thorough overhauling. Whether all are some of those may be given up altogether and replaced by smaller ones on wheels of modern fashion is a matter for consideration, but as might be expected there is a sentiment against doing away with the old cars, particularly the larger ones. The Deputy Commissioner may be requested to look into this matter personally and to place definite and well considered proposals in the matter before Government.

A Lingayat devotee has, by his own exertions and contributio

collected by him, built and consecrated a temple of Chamundeswarâ on the banks of the Kapila river on a spot well suited for bathing and worship. Though a Lingayet, he follows Brahmin tenets and feeds Brahmins on festive occasions. He asks for help for the maintenance of the temple. The matter may be considered when a formal application is received.

There is not much accommodation at Nanjungud for the large number of pilgrims visiting the place. The Government Anna Chatram was recently repaired and is now fit for occupation but it is very small and there is much inconvenience for want of a back-yard and latrine accommodation. I found however that there is a private Chatram just behind the Government Chatram with a court-yard, a well and a small back-yard. There were no signs of that building being looked after by any responsible persons. If permitted I shall request the Deputy

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Commissioner to make enquiros regarding the proprietors of that building and ascertain whether it can be obtained for Government either free of cost or for a small price so as tobe tacked on to our Chatram.

The house known as the Srikanta Mandira close to the temple at Nanjungud is occupied by the Amildar as his residence. The former Amildar Mr C D. Ramaswamaiya was paying a rent of Rs. 9 while the present Amildar (Mr. C. Venkat Rao) pays only Rs. 4½ per mōnsem. It seems desirable to fix the rent at some definite figure, say Rs6 or 7 a month, without regard to the salary of the Amildar, so that a definite rent may be guaranteed to the temple. The Amildar's residing near the temple is of great advantage to the institution, and it is not necessary to place the

rent at a high figure.

21st and 22nd April. Mysore.

At Mysore I made enquiries into the state of the temples, the Govt Anna Chattram, the Sanskrit College and the Muhamedan Institutions. It was brought to notice that the repairs to the Jumma Masjid recently sanctioned for about Rs. 700 was being badly done by the contractor. I sent word to the Amildar to have the work properly supervised.

23rd and 24th. Chamundi Hill.

The repairs for Rs.1200 sanctioned from the State Grant for the temple at the Hill are being neatly done under the Palace Controller's direction and are nearing completion. Certain improvements thereupon which appear to be necessary will be intimated to the Palace Controller.

The Parpattegar asked

for an iron-safe for securing the jewels received from time to time from the palace for use and return. He was asked to apply to the Palace Controller in the first instance. 43)

The Vahana Mantapam and the Simha Vahana placed therein are both in need of repair. The attention of the Palace Controller will be drawn to the fact and he will be asked whether the repairs will be undertaken by the palace who originally gave these offerings from the Royal Family.

A very small temple of Gramadevata on the Hill has become very dilapidated. Its repair has to be undertaken at once at a small cost.

The car of the temple requires immediate repair as two

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of its wheels have become rotten. An estimate will be called for at once as the Ratotsavam comes off in October.

The Chamundi temple, both on account of its sanctity and of the fact that the deity worshipped there in is the tutelary Goddess of the Mysore Royal Family, has to be treated with particular attention. The temple has not only taken up all the amount granted to it as Tasdik but has also absorbed the savings of the other temples on the Hill. Special repairs have therefore to be met from grants from the State.

25th April. Halt Mysore.

26th April. Chennapatna.

The Akhal Sha Khadri Makam, an ancient Mahomedan Institution, is in a very dilapidated condition and some of the buildings have altogether come down. Further, owing to the Manager of the Institution having been placed

under suspension some years back, and to the disputes among the descendants of the original holder for portions of the stipends due to them, the affairs of the Institution have fallen into great confusion. As a result of the correspondence between this office and the Deputy Commissioner a report has been received in the office showing a settlement of the claims as proposed by Mr. Ahmed Ali, Assistant Commissioner The file will soon be submitted for orders.

Estimates for the rebuilding of the Musjid and the Nagarkhana and Achurkhana, the repair of the Makan and other buildings connected with this Institution are under preparation in the P.W.Department. About Rs.2000 or 2500 will be available from the savings of the Institution. This will have to be supplemented

by Rs. 1000 or so from the State Grant and the works restored and brought into working order again.

There is another Muhammedan Institution at Chennapatna called "Syyad Ibrahim's Tomb" which is kept in excellent repair under the management of the British Government.

The Hindu temples at Chennapatna were next visited. They were the temples of Nilakantaswaraswami, Lakshminarayanaswami, Kille Varadaraja swami and Kasivishweswaraswami. Repairs are required in almost all these institutions while, as usual, there are no savings in any of them. The Amildar was requested to send up estimates for the works required, bearing in mind that only the most necessary works such as the preparation of the Chabbagudi, is all that would be undertaken by Government and that the opening of windows or skylights for light and air should always

be provided for

The Chattram at Chennapatna is well conducted under the personal supervision of the Amildar.

27th Mallur.

On the way from Chennapatna to Mallur is the village of Chikka Mallur where there is the ancient temple of Gopalakrishnaswami situated on the river bank. The temple being very dark I requested the Amildar to submit an estimate for opening out windows. The Tasdik allotment being very insufficient, application was made to me for granting a seer of rice a day from the Chennapatna Chattram for Nyvedyam. I was not in favour of taking anything from the Chattram allowance which should all be used for the benefit of the travelling public, but promised to see if anything could be given

from the larger temple of Aparamaya-

swami at Mallur.

The Mallur Aparamayaswa-

mi temple is an important institution

fairly well endowed with land and cash

income. A garden belonging to this tem-

ple was lately sold in blocks and fet-

ched Rs. 8000 odd which is placed in

the Savings Bank. There are a good ma-

ny Pudavat endowments which have been

given out to private parties under pro-

bably now irrecoverable. The temple Tax

dik (scale of establishment &c) has

to be carefully revised and with this

view the necessary information will be

called for.

Meanwhile repairs to the

temple building were represented as

necessary, and an estimate for Rs.8000

and odd ~~was been prepared~~ was

submitted to this Office. Personal ins-

pection has convinced me that repairs

to that extent and even more are

absolutely necessary. One long wing of the Chandrasala Mantapa of the temple has given way, the stone beams along the roof have all lost their position and that portion of the temple is in absolute danger. The P.W. Estimate in connection with this work seems to require some alterations in the light of what I saw, and I pointed those out to the P.W.Supervisor who accompanied me. Other minor repairs, such as improving the floor where meals are taken, removing excrescences which hinder the play of light and air, were also pointed out to the Supervisor. These will now be communicated to the Chief Engineer and a revised estimate called for.

There is a saving of about Rs. 2500 at the credit of this temple, besides Rs. 8000 odd, the proceeds of the sale of the

garden. The matter will be submitted for orders on receipt of the Chief Engineer's reply.

There is a lofty Vahana-Mantap outside this temple in which are placed some huge and unwieldy Vahanams which are in a state of decay. The Mantap is in a filthy condition. The Dy. Commissioner will be asked to find another place for these Vahanams and make the place tidy, or to consult the people and submit proposals for disposing of the unwieldy Vahanams.

There is a Siva temple at Mallur the Government grants of which were resumed at the Inam Settlement as worship was not being carried out at the time. I found the temple and the idols in pretty good order and was informed that a certain devotee was getting worship done therein. Having been asked for the restoration of the Inam grants, I told them present that if the

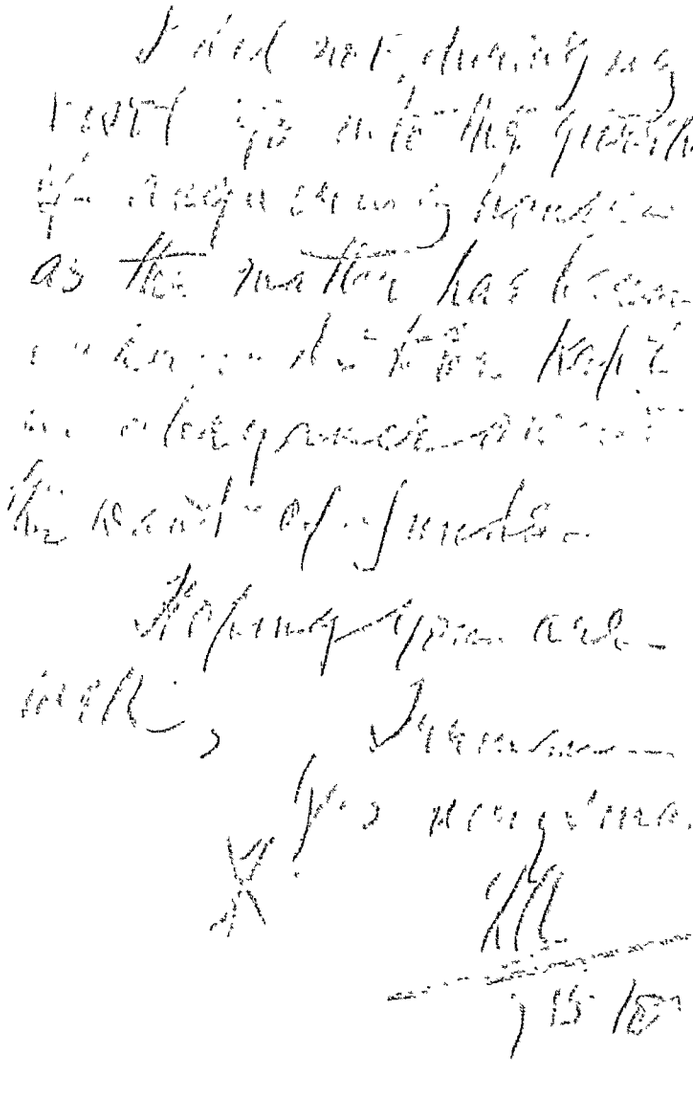
villagers really restored the tem-
ple and its worship and applied
to Government, their prayer would
be considered. Mallur is a flour-
ishing village and it would be a
pity to allow an old Institution
in it to go to decay.

Returned to Bangalore
by daytrain on the 27th April 190/.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

It will be seen from
the above " Notes " that much
valuable information has been obtained
relative to a large variety of
questions connected with an import-
ant part of the Mysore District.
These matters will be dealt with
one by one ~~when practically~~ and rapidly sub-
mitted for orders. Similar visits
to the other Districts will, I have no
dout, have a beneficial effect in the dis-
posal of Mufzal questions relating to them.

Brgt Subt to the Dewan (Bot)
9/5/03 LL



The Improvements required to
be made in the Refectory above
mentioned are
as follows:—

(1) The Kitchen, as now fitted up,
being too small, may be
extended by advancing the
Northern wall three feet into
the Refectory Garden

(2) The same Northern Skylight
placed in the Refectory wall
should each be removed
into the Roof over the
Corridor attached to the
Refectory and
the Room may not be
lighted by Windows only

(3) The floor of the Southern
Pantry should be boarded
and raised to the Level
of the Refectory
floor

4) [illegible]

(5) [illegible]

Chandernagore,
11 May 1903

My dear Sir,

The Pánḍáṭ̣ engaged here tells me that you had asked him to report to me certain matters in connection with the temples here which require attention but he has not given me any definite ideas of the same. May I ask you therefore to enlighten me on the subject?

It is in my opinion of
importance to remove the
small houses, viz. just out
& near the
the street in front of the
Palace & temple. This is all
the more necessary from the
new Municipal Office by the
Palace. The matter has been
postponed as per Do 801

of 24 october 1902. If these losses
and 3 others to the north of
the temple could be taken
over, not only will the
fish up of the institutions
insurance, but the can will be
handed directly. Otherwise,
it would be will not, and
its repairs will cost in the
long run more than the
sum required to carry out
these necessary betterments.

Dear Lloyd. I have given the subject.

With kind regards,

Yours truly

Dr. Frankenstein